

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

NOTICE OF PROPOSED POLICY

Public Act 280 of 1939, as amended, and consultation guidelines for Medicaid policy provide an opportunity to review proposed changes in Medicaid policies and procedures.

Please review the policy summary and the attached materials that describe the specific changes being proposed. Let us know why you support the change or oppose the change.

Submit your comments to the analyst by the due date specified. Your comments must be received by the due date to be considered for the final policy bulletin.

Thank you for participating in the consultation process.



Director, Program Policy Division
Bureau of Medicaid Policy and Health System Innovation

Project Number:	1518-SBS	Comments Due:	May 25, 2015	Proposed Effective Date:	July 1, 2015
------------------------	----------	----------------------	--------------	---------------------------------	--------------

Mail Comments to: Kevin T. Bauer
Bureau of Medicaid Policy and Health System Innovation
Medical Services Administration
P.O. Box 30479
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7979

Telephone Number: 517-241-8398 **Fax Number:** 517-241-8969
E-mail Address: Bauerk2@michigan.gov

Policy Subject: Telepractice for Speech-Language and Audiology Services

Affected Programs: Medicaid School Based Services

Distribution: School Based Services Providers and Billing Agents

Policy Summary: The purpose of this bulletin is to establish policy regarding telepractice for speech-language and audiology services provided within the School Based Services program.

Purpose: There is currently no School Based Services policy regarding speech-language and audiology services delivered via telepractice.

Proposed Policy Draft

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Medical Services Administration

Distribution: School Based Services Providers and Billing Agents

Issued: June 1, 2015 (Proposed)

Subject: Telepractice for Speech-Language and Audiology Services

Effective: July 1, 2015 (Proposed)

Programs Affected: Medicaid School Based Services

The purpose of this bulletin is to establish policy regarding telepractice for speech-language and audiology services provided within the School Based Services (SBS) program. This policy is effective for dates of services on or after July 1, 2015.

Telepractice is the use of telecommunications and information technologies for the exchange of encrypted patient data for the provision of speech-language and audiology services. Telepractice must be obtained through real-time interaction between the patient's physical location (patient site) and the provider's physical location (provider site). Services are provided to patients through hardwire or internet connection. It is the expectation that providers, facilitators and staff involved in telepractice are trained in the use of equipment and software prior to servicing patients. Speech-language and audiology services administered by telepractice are subject to the same provisions as services provided to a patient in person. Refer to the Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual, School Based Services Chapter, Speech, Language and Hearing Therapy Section for complete coverage information.

Providers of telepractice services must be currently licensed in the State of Michigan as a Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) or audiologist and enrolled in Michigan Medicaid. Telepractice services must be provided by a fully-licensed SLP or audiologist, or by a practitioner who holds a limited license and is under the direction of an enrolled, fully-licensed provider of the same profession. Providers must ensure the privacy of the beneficiary and the security of any information shared via telemedicine. The technology used must meet the needs for audio and visual compliance in accordance with current regulations and industry standards. Refer to the General Information for Providers Chapter of the Medicaid Provider Manual for complete Health Insurance Portability and Affordability Act (HIPAA) compliance requirements.

The patient site may be located within the school, at the patient's home, or any other established site deemed appropriate by the provider. It must be a room free from distractions so as not to interfere with the telepractice session. A facilitator must be trained in the use of the telepractice technology and physically present at the patient site during the entire telepractice session to assist the patient at the direction of the SLP or audiologist.

Billing Instructions: Telepractice services are billed using the same procedure codes as services rendered to a patient who is physically present. In addition to the procedure code, billers use the "GT" modifier to identify services provided by telepractice. Refer to the SBS database on the MDCH website at www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders >> Billing and Reimbursement >> Provider Specific Information >> School Based Services for a complete listing of procedure codes applicable to SBS.